

## WARMING UP

1. Have you ever disagreed with God about a choice that he made for your life? Why is accepting God’s will sometimes hard?

## DIGGING IN

*Accepting God’s will for my life means . . .*

2. *I’m not just sitting around waiting for it to happen (5:12a).*
  - How does a belief that “God’s going to do what he’s going to do” lead many people to become passive regarding his will? What is the problem with this?
  - How does understanding the difference between God’s concealed will and his revealed will help? What should be our response to each of these wills?
3. *I’m not afraid to acknowledge my need (5:12b).*
  - What are some of the cultural realities that made it very difficult to be a “man full of leprosy” in the first century?
  - Why do many of us find it challenging to reveal our weaknesses today? What are the benefits of being authentic, transparent, and vulnerable with each other?
4. *I’m not too proud to ask for help (5:12c).*
  - How does the man demonstrate humility in his approach to Jesus?
  - Discuss Pastor Todd’s statement that “prosperity breeds sufficiency.” What would it look like for us to strip away our pride and ask God for his help?
5. *I’m not presuming anything of the Lord (5:12d; 13-16).*
  - What do the man’s words, “Lord, if you will,” indicate about his heart?
  - Jesus healed the man full of leprosy (5:12d), but he didn’t heal everyone (5:15-16). How does this principle—that God doesn’t always change our circumstances—apply to Jesus himself (see Luke 22:42ff)? Why do we sometimes feel like we are exempt from this reality?
  - Why does God, in his sovereignty, choose things for us that we would never choose for ourselves? Unpack the various reasons that Pastor Todd outlined (listed on the next page). How do you feel about those answers? Which is the hardest to embrace? Why?
  - What does it mean to ask the “why?” question in faith? Why is an attitude of faith so crucial? How can we cultivate this kind of attitude in our lives?
6. *I’m not without hope for something better (5:12e).*
  - John Piper defines hope as “a confident expectation and desire for good things in the future.” To what degree is our hope rooted in the life to come vs. life here and now?
  - How would you describe “false hope”? Why do many people desire the supposed comfort that it brings? Why do many pastors/churches become purveyors of it?

## BREAKING OUT

7. Pastor Todd said, “Accepting God’s will is 100% my attitude about it and 0% what God does or doesn’t do. And my attitude is determined by the quality of my relationship with him.” What are the implications of this statement for you? How can your small group members help you be more accepting of God’s will for your life?

## **When I ask “why?” God says . . .**

- Because I’m displaying my glory and power (John 9:1-7).
- Because I’m disciplining you for sin (1 Corinthians 11:27-32; James 5:14-16).
- Because I’m building your character (James 1:2-4; Job 23:10).
- Because I’m using your struggles to help others (2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Luke 22:31-32).
- Because I’m keeping you from pride (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).
- Because I’m pointing out to you what’s eternal and what’s not (Romans 8:18-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).
- Because I’m giving you the blessing of uncommon community (2 Corinthians 1:11; Galatians 6:2).
- Because I’m showing you what you really love (Genesis 22; Luke 14:26-27).